

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0110

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0110

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Technology/Engineering

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This one-story building was built in 1951 by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) and was part of some of the first NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. The building is identical to Tracking Camera Turret with Dome (001-0027-0122, WFF # Z-035) located to the south. The two stations, originally identified as Station 1 (WFF # X-065) and Station 2 (WFF # Z-035) were used as camera stations/observation platforms from which launches that took place in the area between the two buildings could be observed and recorded. Located on the east side of Island Road, adjacent to the sea wall, the building is now part of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF). A small drive provides access to the site off Island Road, near the intersection with the road to the causeway.

The building is representative of a Technology/Engineering resource type built at the beginning of the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Turret Camera Tracking Station #5 has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. As a secondary resource the resource does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. The resource retains its integrity but as a secondary resource of common design and materials, the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

Bibliographic Documentation

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Book

Author: Joseph Adams Shortal

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Shortal, Joseph Adams. "A New Dimension—Wallops Island Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years." National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical Information Office: 1978.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

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| <i>Medium</i> | <i>Depository ID #</i> | <i>Photo Depository</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>File Name</i> |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 35mm B&W | 21542 | DHR | 2004/07/99 | Frames 17-20 |

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

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| <i>Cultural Resource Management Event:</i> | Reconnaissance Survey |
| <i>Date:</i> | 2004/07/99 |
| <i>Organization or Person:</i> | URS Group |
| <i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i> | 2003-0571 |
| <i>CRM Event Notes or Comments:</i> | 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 |

CRM Event # 2,

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| <i>Cultural Resource Management Event:</i> | Reconnaissance Survey |
| <i>Date:</i> | 2003/08/08 |
| <i>Organization or Person:</i> | URS Group |
| <i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i> | 2003-0571 |
| <i>CRM Event Notes or Comments:</i> | 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700 Bethesda, MD 20814 |